

Sawyer returns to knock out Leonard

By JOHN STURBIN
Star-Telegram Writer

As prescribed by trainer Joe Barrientes, Fort Worth's Phil Sawyer was taking the cautious approach in the early going of his scheduled 10-round junior middleweight fight against Sam Leonard Thursday night.

"They always tell us to be careful and to have a good eye," Sawyer explained, "but at the same time to hit hard." This Sawyer was doing until that point in the third round when Leonard got his undivided attention.

"He hit me *real good low*," said Sawyer, who nearly turned as purple as his TCU "Fightin' Frog" trunks. The result was a flurry born of fury, one that ended with a left hook that knocked Leonard out at 2:29 of the third of a scheduled 10-round.

"In the third I hurt him several times, but he was still throwing some hard body shots," said Sawyer, now 122-1 with eight KOs. "I hurt him 30 or 40 seconds before (the knockout) with an overhand right, and Joe told me to go to the body."

Indeed, working the body was in vogue throughout the five-bout Ten Count Productions card at Will Rogers Coliseum on a night when all five fighters from David Gorman's Super Pros Gym emerged victorious before a crowd estimated at 1,000.

"I'm the oldest guy in our gym," said Barrientes, "and sometimes I come up with some *old tricks*. On the pro level, you've got to work that body and pace off the late rounds."

Sawyer thus dropped Leonard to 17-8 and salvaged the memories of a fourth-round TKO loss suffered against Cheto Ramos for the Texas super welterweight title on Aug. 3.

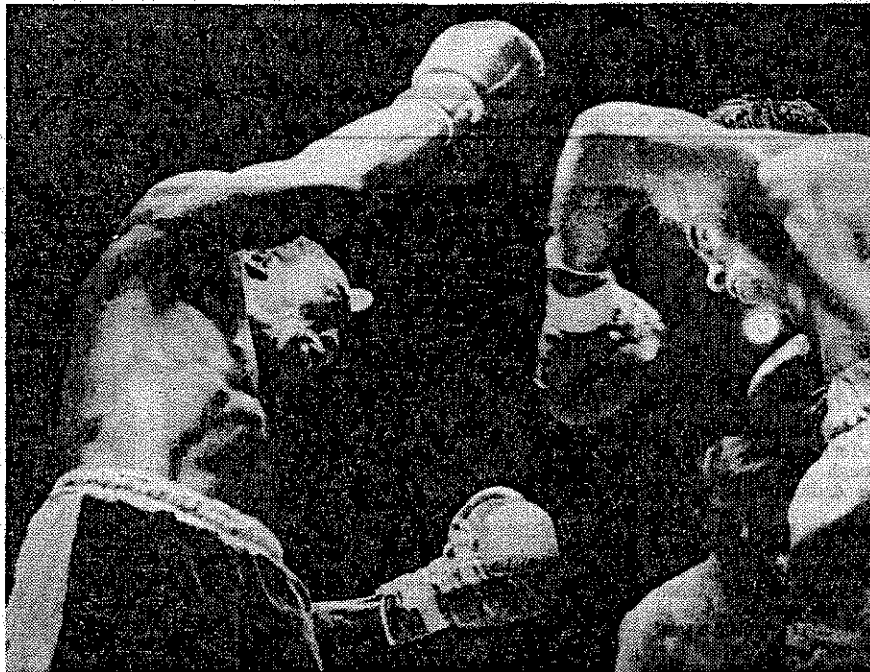
In other results, Fort Worth light heavyweight Freddy Guzman scored a controversial — as in referee stops fight quickly — TKO against Tony Orville of Beaumont at 1:19 of the second in a bout scheduled for 10.

Another light heavyweight match saw Fort Worth's Jay Strickland use a left-right combination to knock out Marcus Dorsey of Port Arthur at 2:38 of the first. The fight was scheduled for eight.

Fort Worth cruiserweight Mickey Pryor found his "second wind" in the seventh round, and used it and a flurry of leather to register a TKO against Beaumont's Tom Landry at 2:15. It, too, was scheduled for eight.

And in his pro debut, Fort Worth welterweight Vincent Releford scored a unanimous decision over Kevin Johnson of Tulsa in a four-rounder that went the distance.

As in his last fight against Dennis Fikes, Guzman was floored in the first — this time by a left hand. But he weathered the round and was throwing a flurry of short punches in the second when an uppercut caught the end of Orville's nose. Orville went to his knees and elbows and got up at the count of seven. However, before anyone could



Star-Telegram/JERF

Phil Sawyer (right) follows through on a left against Sam Leonard Th

throw another punch, referee Ronnie Walters of Dallas halted the fight.

"Man, that don't make sense," said Orville, now 9-4. "When he hit me in the nose I tried to dip out of the way and slipped down. And I'm not hurt. I'm not bleeding. Man, you can't stop no fight that fast."

Even Guzman was admittedly surprised at the abrupt ending. "I figured he (Walters) would let it go some more," said Guzman, now 13-1. "They might have stopped it quick, but I still caught him with a solid shot."

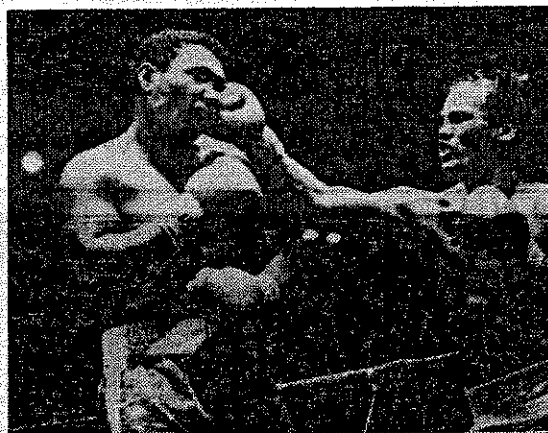
Strickland, who last fought on Sept. 29, 1983, showed anything but ring rust. Working first to the body, Strickland smartly went upstairs and landed a left to the head that was followed by a right to the mid-section that dropped Dorsey at 2:38 of the first.

"It was a pretty good body shot," said Strickland in a bit of understatement. "He got me a little off course because he had his hands down. I think he tried to get me to get careless, but I just smiled at him."

In the process Strickland upped his record to 19-1-1, while Dorsey dropped to 11-10-1.

Pryor, meanwhile, looked to be in trouble in the sixth against Landry when the big guy from Beaumont planted three roundhouse right hooks on the side of Micky's face.

But Pryor worked Landry onto the ropes and started peppering his head with a steady stream of rights and lefts. With Landry's nose bleeding and offering no resistance, re-



Star-Telegram/JERF

Mickey Pryor connects with right against Tom

eree Walters stepped in and halted it at 2:15.

"They always talk about a second wind and I finally kicked in with it," said Pryor, now 9-1. "I felt he was hurt and thought they would stop it if I kept throwing at him. I kept throwing 'em and they about all connected."

It was the first time Pryor had gone past four rounds.

Landry's record fell to 12-5.

Releford looked very sharp in his pro debut. The four-time State Golden Gloves champion, sporting a pair of red and white Sasson trunks, downed Johnson with a looping right to the head in the middle of the first and was never in trouble. John-

son suffered his first defeat.

"I felt I performed. Releford, who weighed 139 pounds over the 139-pound limit, was here in June. 'I'll probab to junior welter, but I fe tonight."

Releford recently signed a year pro contract with G responded in kind.

"I fought a more p style," Releford said. "I flies hit me earlier tod there they didn't bother didn't jump around a lo jump into a man's world

Sports

TCU DAILY SKIFF, Wednesday, October 31, 1984

Sawyer scores KO

By Ernest L. Perry
Staff writer of the TCU Daily Skiff

With a strong left hook 2:29 into the third round "The Flashin' Frog of TCU" Phil Sawyer knocked out Sam Leonard in a scheduled 10-round junior middleweight bout before 900 spectators at Will Rogers Coliseum Thursday.

"I didn't think the fight would end that fast," Sawyer said. "He was a very fast hitter, but he didn't hurt me."

Sawyer's fight was on the main event of a five-bout fight card honoring world champions Donald Curry and Gene Hatcher, both from Fort Worth.

During the first two rounds, Sawyer and Leonard felt each other out, but Sawyer seemed to be the man with the edge. "My trainer told me not to rush and get him out, but I got the chance to take it. I had to remember not to leave myself open," said Sawyer.

In the first round, Sawyer used blows to the body and upper cuts to the head to try to weaken Leonard. Leonard pinned Sawyer against the ropes, hitting him in the ribs and stomach. Leonard came out moving and using left jabs to set up right hooks.

Sawyer said the jabs were very weak and he was able to block the right hooks when Leonard threw them. "In the first round he was very quick with his jabs. He tried to set up the right, but I was able to anticipate when he would throw it," said Sawyer.

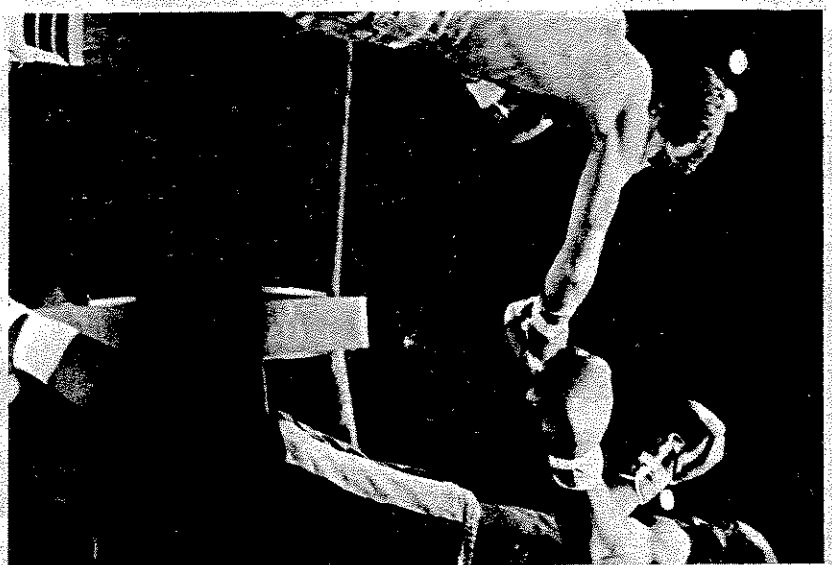
"I wasn't ready for this fight," Leonard said. "I was training for another fight when they offered this one to me at the last minute. If this manager told me he was good, but I thought I could take him, I guess I was wrong."

Both fighters reinforced the fact that they knew little about each other and considered the fight a fluke to their next fights. "I took this fight seriously, but the fight I really want is against Ramos," said Sawyer. Chato Ramos is the Texas Junior Middleweight Champion who won a technical knock-out against Sawyer back in August.

"I was leading in points and had won every round until he thumbed me in the eye and my eye swelled up and the referee stopped the fight," Sawyer said.

Sawyer said he wanted to fight Ramos before he fought Leonard, but Ramos didn't want a rematch so soon. "I'm hoping to get a match with him in May or June. Right now all I want to do is rest and get caught up on my studying," Sawyer said.

Sawyer is planning to graduate in May with a degree in Speech Communication and Spanish.



TAKE THAT: Phil Sawyer takes a punch at Sam Leonard during a 10-round junior middleweight bout in Will Rogers Coliseum Thursday. Photo courtesy of Linda Platt

Noll to start Malone against Oilers this Sunday

PITTSBURGH (AP)—For the first time in a month, the Pittsburgh Steelers don't have their weekly quarterback controversy.

Pittsburgh Coach Chuck Noll, in an upbeat mood Monday following a 35-10 demolition of the Atlanta Falcons, said Mark Malone will start next Sunday for the second week in a row, against the Houston Oilers.

Malone directed the Steelers' 20-17 upset of the San Francisco 49ers on Oct. 14, his first start in three years, but found himself back on the bench a week later when the Steelers lost to the Indianapolis Colts with David Woodley at quarterback.

Malone was back on the field, and Noll was asked that when Woodley comes in and does exceptionally well, it's tough to come back in. It isn't so much that David has lost the position... he isn't able to play. He's hurting right now. Mark is doing it right now, and David isn't sharp and isn't ready to play," Noll said.

"You do what you have to do to win," Noll said. "If that's playing one guy, that's it."

Noll, in contrast to his unhappiness after the Colts' loss, cracked jokes and even made a reference to now-retired Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw, a frequent topic of discussion in past Noll news conferences.

"He prepared as well as anyone I've seen prepare," Noll said of Malone. He took films home and came back with a list of things he needed to know. He worked very hard in his preparation."

Former Steelers' running back Rocky Bleier, now a television sportscaster, then moved to

Noll joined in the laughter, knowing that if Bradshaw was ever injured in 14 National Football League seasons, it didn't show.

"When you're neurotic, it's difficult to prepare," Noll joked. Noll referred to Bradshaw's recent claim that he had previously undisclosed vision problems that often made his own receivers indistinguishable from opposing defensive backs.

Noll wouldn't look past the winless Oilers, 0-9, who were beaten Sunday by the Cincinnati Bengals. The Bengals trail the Steelers in the American Football Conference Central Division by two games.



THRILL OF VICTORY: Senior Phil Sawyer rests after his Thursday defeat over Sam Leonard in Will Rogers Coliseum. Sawyer won the match by knocking out Leonard in the third round. Photo courtesy of Linda Platt

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Boxing no place for Frogs

By Grant McGinnis
Staff writer of the TCU Daily Skiff

Tom Landry stepped into a boxing ring last Thursday night at Will Rogers Coliseum in Fort Worth and came away from a seventh-round TKO with a bloody nose and a swollen face. Before you get all upset at the gentler speech of the Dallas Cowboys, I should tell you that this was not the same Tom Landry.

This Landry is a professional boxer from Beaumont, Texas. He was part of a fight card held at Will Rogers last week in honor of two world champions from Fort Worth: Donald Curry and Gene Hatcher.

The said pitied five local fighters against five fighters from elsewhere. It was not a pretty affair. Neither was it the most of its kind.

Landry is a fine example. He is not what you'd call a class fighter. It's not that he doesn't have any class, but rather that he has no manager to put it all together for him and make the boxing world see that class.

Landry came into the fight having lost 47 pounds in the preceding three weeks. He hadn't fought in more than a year and his overall professional record is an unimpressive 12 wins and 4 losses. Landry fought this one as a cruiserweight, well over his ideal classification as a middleweight.

Landry looked fat, tired, rather quickly but still packed an impressive punch. The man has some obvious fighting ability as the bruised and battered face of his opponent and even-
 tual winner, Mickey Pryor, will attest. But he is lacking one key ingredient: backers.

A pro fighter without a good manager is like a presidential candidate without a public relations man. He as a junior middleweight. His profes-



by
Grant
McGinnis

Commentary
 isn't going nowhere. Oh, Landry did have some support. A rather motley-looking man trying to pass for a manager helped him in his corner, and an enthusiastic trainer by the name of Curley Jackson gave all the assistance he could. It was not enough.

Landry gave his all, hurt Pryor badly, but he was declared the loser on a technical knockout.

Unfortunately, it was intended to happen that way. The fights were arranged so that five Fort Worth fighters would come up against the non-descript opponents with reputations for falling over half-dead after a punch or two. Of course, the local boys would come out victorious and the promoters would make money.

Well not quite, the local fighters were less than impressive, and the thousands of so fight fans at Will Rogers did not exactly fill the promoter's pockets. This fight card is typical and so is Landry's situation. The sad fact of it all is that a TCU student was a part of the affair.

Phil Sawyer fought on the evening's main event. Sawyer is billed as "The Fighting Frog of TCU" and competes without a public relations man. He as a junior middleweight. His profes-

Commentary

sional record now stands at 12 wins and one loss after Thursday's third-round knockout of Sam Leonard, a down and outer from Tulsa, Okla.

Sawyer won the fight easily on the heels of a vicious knockout punch that left Leonard on the canvas for several minutes as fight doctors attempted to revive him. Sawyer's power was impressive. The man has got style, ability and more importantly, a good manager. In short, Sawyer has all the tools to make it in boxing. All that is still no guarantee of success.

Boxers are a rough lot, fighting their way out of ghettos and dreaming of one day getting a shot at some sort of title and a little piece of the American Dream. Standing around the lobby of Will Rogers at the end of the evening, they were a sorry-looking lot, as they waited for their little share of the purse.

Kevin Johnson of Tulsa was a victim of one of the evening's preliminary bouts. He said he was trying to make it in boxing because "I can't make it no other way." His swollen eyelids and ravaged knuckles suggested that perhaps he must make it another way.

Boxing is not a game for gentlemen and it makes one wonder why Sawyer is still boxing. He has a way out. It's a way out that none of those other fighters have.

In May, Sawyer will be a TCU graduate, equipped to go out and succeed in the real world. Let's hope he chooses to do it somewhere other than in a boxing ring in a game that will lead him nowhere. Sawyer is young, articulate and talented and he will succeed in whatever he chooses to do.

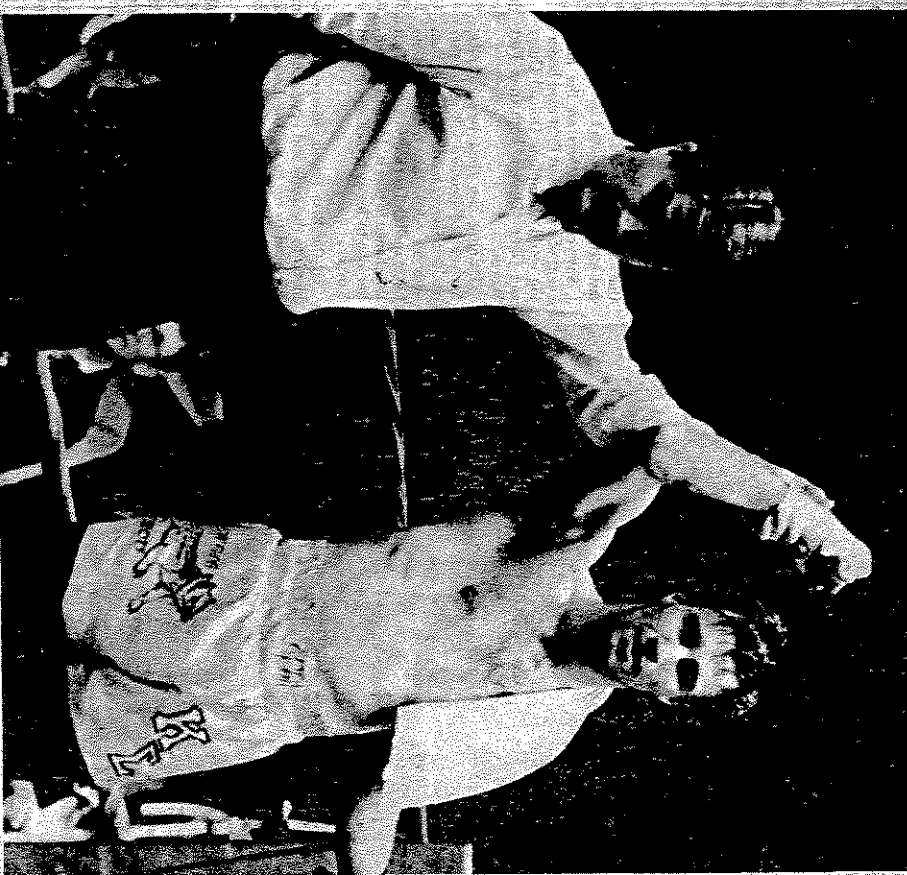
Make your mark in another game Phil, before boxing leaves its mark on you. Permanently.

Frogs hand Bears more bad news, soccer team beats Baylor

By Bob Kudlawi
Staff writer of the TCU Daily Skiff

The TCU men's soccer team upped their record to 3-0 in Southwest Conference play with a 3-1 victory over Baylor Sunday.

The Frogs scored four minutes into the first period on a shot by Xavier Alegria. Alegria's goal was set up by a centering pass from forward Ralph Wood.



AND THE WINNER IS... Phil Sawyer was the winner. Sawyer defeated Sam Leonard with a third-round knockout in a 10-round junior middleweight bout Thursday. Photo courtesy of Lurch Platt

After the Frogs' first score, the game changed from an offensive struggle to a defensive one. The momentum shifted from the Frogs to the Bears. Baylor scored ten minutes before the end of the period.

"We're playing into their hands because we're playing the ball in the middle," Head Coach Dave Robinson said to his players at the half. "They've got their biggest guys in the middle."

Let's play the ball to the outside. The Frogs had trouble in the first half because Baylor's midfielders had a considerable height and strength advantage over them.

Also at halftime Robinson told the team to wake up and remember the importance of the game. "We might well be playing for the conference championship," said Robinson.

In the second half the Frogs played more aggressively. Alegria netted his second score of the game when he rebounded his own kick and forced it into the left side of the Baylor net.

The Frog defense almost eliminated the Bear's offensive attack. Defenders Tony Novetti, Butch Laflert and Andy Bensend moved forward, often catching Baylor off-guard. "There's always a tendency to score a goal and then lay back," Robinson said.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
AND STANDARDS

BOXING OR WRESTLING CONTRACT

(Form of Contract Required by Texas Commissioner of Labor for Boxing or Wrestling)

For and in consideration of the sum of FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1500.00)

To be paid after services rendered, Phil Sawyer Boxer
(Contestant—Real Name Only) (Boxer or Wrestler)

Herein appearing in person or through his duly authorized representative, Agent or Manager DAVID GURMAN

_____ does hereby agree to enter into a _____
10 RD 3 MIN Boxing contest to a decision with SAM LEONARD
No. of rounds and time of each) (Boxing or Wrestling) (Time and No. of falls or) (Real Name)

of the City of TULSA State of OKLAHOMA

at a weight not exceeding 154 pounds at 10:00 AM o'clock at _____

FT WORTH, Texas, on THUR OCT 25, 1984
(City) (Day and date of contest)

in the city of FT. WORTH, State of Texas, said contest to be held under the auspices of _____

10 COUNT PRODUCTIONS
(Name of Promoter)

duly authorized under the Boxing and Wrestling Law of Texas, and licensed by the Commissioner of the Texas Department of Labor to conduct

Boxing in the City of FT WORTH, Texas.
(Boxing or Wrestling)

It is specifically agreed and understood by the parties hereto, that said boxing contest is governed by the rules and regulations of the Commissioner of the Department of Labor of Texas, which are on file in said Commissioner's office at Austin, Texas, and which are made a part of this contract.

In Witness Whereof, said parties have hereunto signed their names on the 16 day of OCT 19 84

Witnesses:

_____ x Phil Sawyer
(Signature of Contestant)

By David Gorman
(Name) (Title)

(Inspector) (Signature of Promoter)

Received purse of \$ \$1500.00
(Signature) Phil Sawyer By Wayne Hanna Manager
(Contestant or his Manager) (Name) (Title)

(NOTE: Contract in triplicate must be completed in every respect prior to start of contests. Original copy is to be retained by Promoter; duplicate copy is to be receipted by party receiving payment of purse and then forwarded by Promoter to Commissioner of Labor, Austin, Texas, with tax report; triplicate copy is to be delivered to contestant or his licensed manager.)